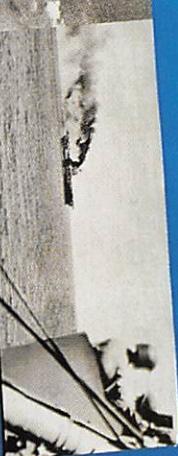


Ellard's 1998 search for the lost ships in one spectacularly illustrated

Ellard's 1998 search for the lost ships in one spectacularly illustrated

quest to find the Yorktown
the other lost ships from the
al battle of the Pacific War



The Fourth of June

on a railing stanchion. He had to climb over Patterson in order to go for help.

By the time the last of the attackers either had been shot down or had turned for home, the Yorktown's deck slanted so badly that its surviving fighters couldn't land. (Four had been shot down.) They headed for the *Enterprise*. Some, like Bill Leonard,

landed just before their fuel ran out. Two Japanese torpedoes had penetrated the port side of the Yorktown's hull beneath the waterline, jamming the rudder, knocking out or cutting all power connections, and rupturing the port-side fuel tanks. "The hits could not have been

better placed," recalled John Greenbacker. "The ship quickly listed to port about 20°. Further listing accumulated at a slower rate, but from the inclinometer on the bridge, it was apparent it was still slowly increasing. First 22°, then 23°, finally about slowly to 26°, where it hung. We could not be sure that it had gone as far as it would go. Up on the bridge, out in the open, there was no sense of panic."

ONLY FIVE KATES AND THREE ZEROS, HALF OF THE *HIRYU*'S SECOND ATTACKING FORCE, returned to their ship, (*Lieutenant Tomonaga* was almost certainly shot down by Jimmy Thach.) But the Japanese pilots could report that a second American carrier had been disabled. Even had the reports been true, Yamaguchi's situation was still very dire indeed.

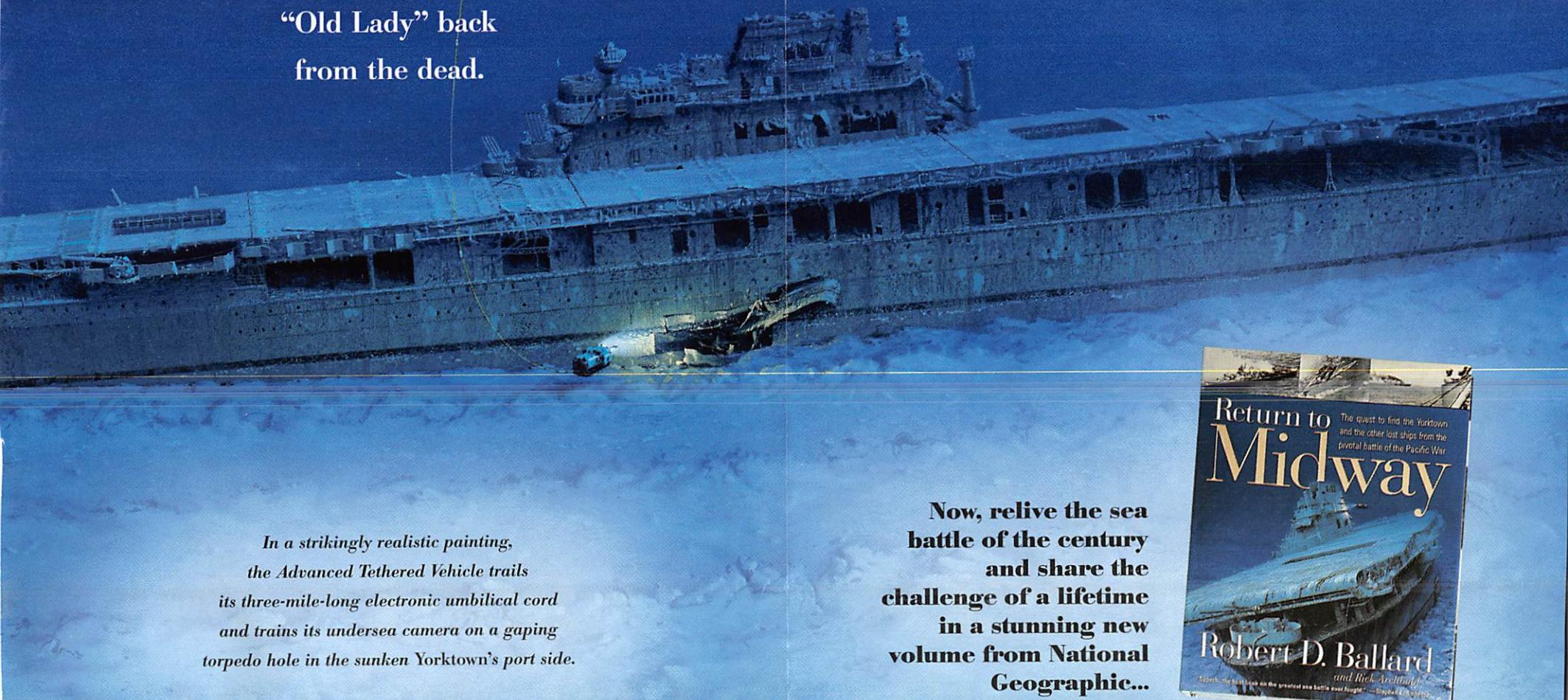
His ship was as yet untouched by enemy attack, but his air force was a battle-scared and battle-worn crew. The dive-bomber attack had cost him 13 Vals and 3 Zeros, leaving him a grand total of 4 torpedo planes, 5 dive-bombers, and 6 fighters with which to do battle against at



(Above) Within minutes of being struck by two torpedoes, the flight deck into a perilous slope. (Below) The destroyers, the stages of abandonment. Hanging from the side are the lines to

May 19, 1998

...But 56 years later,
as former Seaman
William Surgi looked
on in amazement,
explorer Robert
Ballard brought the
“Old Lady” back
from the dead.



*In a strikingly realistic painting,
the Advanced Tethered Vehicle trails
its three-mile-long electronic umbilical cord
and trains its undersea camera on a gaping
torpedo hole in the sunken Yorktown's port side.*

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battle of the century
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